

Response to Office Action
Mailed August 6, 2003
Patent Application No.: 09/914,388

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for placing a subscriber's communication in a position with respect to a review of messages in a voice mail system (VMS), the method comprising:

A. in response to an indication from the subscriber's communication to leave the review, creating an identifier to mark the position of the subscriber's communication in the review;

B. storing the identifier;

C. in response to a notice indicating the subscriber's communication is to rejoin the review in the VMS, using the identifier to place the subscriber's communication in the position in the review,

whereby a subscriber may interrupt the review of messages in the VMS and then return to the position in the review in the VMS.

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2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the notice comprises a copy of the identifier; and wherein ~~action C~~ using the identifier to place the subscriber's communication in the position in the review comprises using the copy of the identifier with the identifier to place the subscriber's communication in the position in the review.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~action A~~ creating the identifier to mark the position of the subscriber's communication comprises, in response to the indication from the subscriber's communication to leave the review, providing a message indicating a release of the subscriber's communication.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the message comprises a remote operations (RO) parameter including a copy of the identifier.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the message comprises a GR-1129 message comprising the RO parameter including the copy of the identifier.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling the placement of a subscriber's

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communication in a position in a review of messages in a voice mail system (VMS), the method comprising:

- A. receiving a message indicating a VMS release of the subscriber's communication by the VMS, the message including a copy of an identifier marking the position of the subscriber's communication in the review of messages in the VMS;
- B. storing the copy of the identifier; and
- C. in response to receiving a notice of a release of the subscriber's communication by a network element other than the VMS, directing the subscriber's communication to be routed to the VMS including the copy of the identifier.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the message comprises a remote operations (RO) parameter including the copy of the identifier.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the message comprises an GR-1129 message comprising the RO parameter including the copy of the identifier.

A. 9. (Currently Amended) With respect to a the position of a subscriber's communication-subscriber in a review of messages in a voice mail system (VMS), a system for enabling the subscriber's communication subscriber to make a call, and after the call, to return to the position in the review of messages in the VMS, comprising:

the VMS being operative to transmit a message indicating at least a telephone number to which the call is to be directed, and the message including a copy of an identifier marking the position of the subscriber's communication subscriber in the review of messages in the VMS;

a service control point (SCP) operative to receive the message, and to cause the subscriber's communication communication which the subscriber used to review the messages to be terminated to an intelligent network element (INE) with the INE being provided with the telephone number of the call to be made;

the INE being operative, in response to termination of the subscriber's communication to the INE, to initiate an INE call to the telephone number, to bridge the subscriber's communication and the INE call to form the call from the subscriber, to

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monitor the call for a disconnect signal, and in response to the disconnect signal, to dismantle the bridge so as to disconnect the INE call and to release the subscriber's communication;

the SCP being further operative, in response to a notice of release of the subscriber's communication by the INE, to cause the subscriber's communication to be routed to the VMS and to include the copy of the identifier; and

the VMS being further operative, in response to receipt of the subscriber's communication and the copy of the identifier, to use the copy of the identifier to return the ~~subscriber's communication~~ subscriber to the position in the review of messages in the VMS.

A. 10. (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the message from the VMS comprises a remote operations (RO) parameter including the reply telephone number and the copy of the identifier.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the message comprises a remote operations (RO) parameter including the reply telephone number and the copy of the identifier.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 10 or Claim 11, wherein the message comprises an GR-1129 message comprising the RO parameter.